

institution that promotes research as well as exchanges between scholars and policy-makers, and of a new center for the study of Congress at Indiana University. He and his wife, Nancy, will stay on here, in their home in Alexandria, Va.

Not only Congress, he said, but political life in general is a different game now than it was in 1960, when Mr. Hamilton was unable to turn out a respectable crowd to greet Senator John F. Kennedy in Columbus.

"I called everybody I knew and couldn't get 40 people to come out to the Old City Hall to see him just a few months before he got the nomination" for the Presidency, he said, laughing at the innocence of the time. "Now you start running for President four years ahead of time and the voters are so well informed, you do something and get back to the office and the phones are already ringing."

Not all of that sophistication is progress, he said. He dared to say what no candidate would: that today's elected officials pay too much attention to constituents, tracking every hiccup in public opinion.

In some ways, he feels he is leaving on the same note he came in on: "We're still fighting about Medicare 30 years later." But there has been positive change, he said, in that the workings of Congress are much more open now, and the body more truly representative, with many more women and members of minority groups in office. If he has learned anything, he said, it is the difficulty of making representative government work.

He has for some time now missed the collegiality of his early years in Washington, when a senior Republican corrected a glaring parliamentary error Mr. Hamilton had made on a bill the man opposed—an act of generosity that he said would be unimaginable today.

He will miss his colleagues, too. And if he has not fully focused on his feelings about leaving, because there has not been time, Mr. Hamilton exits feeling pretty good about the job: "I don't leave as a pessimist. I'm not gloomy because I have more confidence in the institutions of government and the Congress than most of my constituents. The process is often untidy, but it works."•

ERIN POPOVICH

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, Butte, Montana has a long history of excellence in sports and the cultivation of champions. On Sunday, October 11, 1998 in Christchurch, New Zealand, a young champion from Butte won a gold medal in the 200-meter individual medley at the Paralympic World Swimming Championships. At age 13, Erin Popovich obtained a gold medal with her personal best time of 3:32.45, shattering her previous mark of 3:37.18 which had been a world record.

On Thursday, October 15 Erin significantly added to her trophy case by winning gold medals in the 50-meter freestyle and 50-meter butterfly races. The Butte Central Junior High 8th Grader improved on her United States record time in the 50-meter butterfly with a time of 45.63. She also recorded a personal best in her 50-meter freestyle with a time of 37.54. In the freestyle Erin was in second place until the final 4 meters when she went on to win the gold. Erin also won a bronze medal in the 100-meter freestyle and helped win a gold for the women's 200-meter team freestyle relay.

The most amazing aspect of this is that Erin only started competitively swimming 10 months ago when she joined the Butte Tarpons Swim Club, under the direction of Swim Coach Marie Cook and Assistant Coach Bill Sever. She is a natural athlete, but her true strength lies in her dedication. "Her determination is her strength," Coach Cook says. "Her mental attitude is just tough." Erin's focus provides an excellent example for her teammates, Coach Cook says. "The kids on this team don't think of her as disabled . . . when she gets on the blocks with taller kids you can see it—she's such an inspiration to everyone."

Erin, who is the daughter of Dr. Keith and Barbara Popovich, is only one of 30 swimmers to qualify for the United States Disabled Team. The Paralympics features 585 swimmers from 55 countries.

I want to join with her family and friends and all the Butte Tarpon Swimmers in congratulating Erin on her tremendous success. Erin has proven herself as a World Champion and as one of Butte, Montana's finest.•

TRIBUTE TO REGINA WOODWARD NICKLES

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Kentucky suffered a grievous loss last week when law enforcement officer Regina Nickles of Harrodsburg, Kentucky was shot and killed, in the line of duty, early Wednesday morning as Officer Nickles and her partner were responding to a call reporting a man sneaking around the parking lot of a Harrodsburg factory. She was 45 years old.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Regina Woodward Nickles grew up in Boyle County in Central Kentucky. She went to high school in Danville and then attended Eastern Kentucky University. In 1983, at the age of 29, Officer Nickles became the first—and remains the only—woman to ever serve on the Harrodsburg Police force. When she was profiled in the local newspaper in 1983, she said, "I want to do the best job that I can, and I still feel like I have to prove myself because I'm a woman. I don't want to let these men down who had enough confidence in me to hire me."

In a town as small as Harrodsburg—population 8000—all the officers are well known. And Officer Nickles was particularly well regarded. She was known in the community as a peace-maker, an officer with a special talent for resolving disputes before they became violent. She is remembered as kind and caring, known for pulling over motorists, giving them a stern warning and sending them on their way. But she could also be tough when called for, and had the respect of the community and all of her fellow officers.

Reflecting the the goodwill that she had built up in Harrodsburg over her career, Officer Nickles was recently

nominated as the Republican candidate for sheriff in the November elections. A remarkable reflection of the rapport she had with the community is the fact that several people who had once been arrested and jailed by Officer Nickles have said that they still intended to vote for her because of the way she had treated them.

The murder of Officer Nickles has left the Harrodsburg community in a state of shock. Much like our small Capitol Hill community was devastated by the murders of Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, the residents of Harrodsburg are asking how this could happen in their small town. As we are painfully aware, no community is immune from such heinous acts.

Mr. President, Officer Regina Woodward Nickles leaves behind an extended family that must now cope with an unimaginably horrific loss. Officer Nickles will also be mourned by the tight-knit Harrodsburg community in which she was such a valued participant.

When Officer Nickles announced her candidacy for Sheriff, she elaborated on her motivation for pursuing the position. "I want to do more than wear a badge and a gun," she observed. "I want to touch people's lives." Officer Nickles didn't need to be elected sheriff to do that. It is abundantly clear that she had touched many people during her too-brief life, and she will be sorely missed.•

REPUBLICAN OBSTRUCTION OF PATENT REFORM LEGISLATION

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have long been involved in high technology issues and those affecting American industry that relies on intellectual property at its core. Over a decade ago, I helped establish and chaired a Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Technology and the Law. This year, we have successfully completed work on legislation to address the impending millennium bug with the Senate and House adopting the Hatch-Leahy substitute for S. 2392, the Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosure Act.

I have also worked closely with Senator HATCH on a number of other intellectual property measure including the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, H.R. 2281, the Trademark Law Treaty Implementation Act, S. 2193, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office Reauthorization Act, H.R. 3723. Working with Senators DASCHLE, BINGAMAN, BOXER, HARKIN, KOHL and others, we have been able to put the interests of the nation and the nation's economic future first and enact significant legislation with respect to both copyright and trademark matters this year. Unfortunately, we have not made the progress that we should have on patent matters.

A critical matter from the intellectual property agenda, important to the nation's economic future, is reform of our patent laws. I have been working diligently along with Senators